(b) if so, the details of any such projects or proposals on which Government are willing to undertake;

(c) the ground work prepared till date by Government on the same; and

(d) by when tribals would be economically independent based on such projects or proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Government is promoting the overall development and commercialization of various arts and crafts, including those of tribals, through various schemes under the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textile. Besides this, the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has opened an outlet called "TRIBES" since April 1999 for marketing handicrafts, artifacts and textiles made by the tribals.

(b) and (c) The schemes and projects for promotion and commercialization of various arts and crafts, including those of tribals, under the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) include the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY), training & extension, design & technical upgradation, marketing support & services, research & development, financial assistance to State handicrafts development corporations/apex societies and export promotion etc.

(d) The schemes have given encouraging results in the upliftment of economic condition of artisans (tribals as well as non-tribals). However, no specific time-frame can be drawn up to make all the tribals economically independent, and often handicrafts is not their sole means of livelihood.

Naxalites activities in Tribal areas

585. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the activities of naxalites in the areas which have a high concentration of tribal population;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to control the incidence of violence in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demonstration by Staff of CPWD at Nirman Bhawan

†586. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Gazetted Office Staff Association of Central Public Works Department had organized a demonstration at Nirman Bhawan;

(b) if so, the purpose behind organizing the demonstration;

(c) whether any demand was also made to Government through this demonstration; and

(d) if so, the details of their main demands and by when Government would take a decision on their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demonstration was held to press for their various demands.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Association has made a set of 64 demands, which include grant of recognition, filling up of posts, creation of additional posts, etc. The demands are under examination and appropriate action is being taken in this regard in consultation with concerned Ministries & Departments.

Housing scheme for Assam

587. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any housing scheme through HUDCO for the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.